

RCE & AMENDMENT
Serial No. 10/726,059

REMARKS

Introductory Comments

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants have requested continued examination and entry of the instant amendment that places the application in condition for allowance.

Rejections of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) - - Russell et al.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,050,433 to Russell et al. ("Russell"). This ground of rejection with respect to claims 1-15 has been overcome by the amendment to claim 1. None of the references cited in any of the previous Office actions discloses a channel and sliding member interaction substantially as claimed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections of record for claims 1-15 in light of Russell are respectfully requested.

Rejections of Claims 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) - - Hugles, Saklad & Williams

Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,523,711 to Hugles et al. ("Hugles") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,150,815 to Saklad ("Saklad") in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,718,664 to Williams ("Williams"). This ground of rejection with respect to claims 17-19 has been overcome by the amendment to claim 17. None of the references cited in any of the previous Office actions discloses a channel and sliding member and/or pivoting member interaction substantially as claimed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of record for claims 17-19 in light of Hugles, Saklad and Williams are respectfully requested.

Rejections of Claims 12, 15, 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) - - Russell, Saklad & Williams

Claims 12, 15, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,050,433 to Russell et al. ("Russell") in view of

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U.S. Patent No. 5,150,815 to Saklad ("Saklad") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,718,664 to Williams ("Williams"). This ground of rejection with respect to claims 12 and 15 has been overcome by the amendment to claim 1, while this ground of rejection with respect to claims 17-20 has been overcome by the amendments to claim 17. None of the references cited in any of the previous Office actions discloses a channel and sliding member and/or pivoting member interaction substantially as claimed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of record for claims 12, 15, and 17-20 in light of Russell, Saklad and Williams are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) - - Russell, Saklad, Williams & Otake

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,050,433 to Russell et al. ("Russell") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,150,815 to Saklad ("Saklad"), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,718,664 to Williams ("Williams") and in still further view of U.S. Patent No. D431,150 to Otake ("Otake"). This ground of rejection with respect to claim 13 has been overcome by the amendment to claim 1. None of the references cited in any of the previous Office actions discloses a channel and sliding member interaction substantially as claimed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record for claim 13 in light of Russell, Saklad, Williams and Otake are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) - - Russell & Goto

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious in light of U.S. Patent No. 6,050,433 to Russell et al. ("Russell") in view of or U.S. Patent No. D363,414 to Goto et al. ("Goto"). This ground of rejection with respect to claim 16 has been overcome by the amendment to claim 1. None of the references cited in any of the previous Office actions discloses a channel and sliding member interaction substantially as claimed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of record for claim 16 in light of Russell and Goto are respectfully requested.

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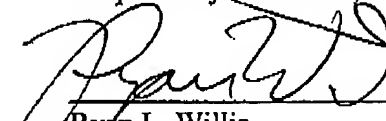
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20, now pending, are patentably distinct from the references cited and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record are respectfully requested..

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-3072.

In the event that the Examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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